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15 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Major Business Requiring Attention During My Absence

I have noted briefly below certain major items of business I discussed with you and the Director in your office on 14 August. The first two of these are matters on which you may receive calls from General Goodpaster. I have indicated in each case which member of my staff can be of assistance to you.

✓ a. Proposed Mainland China Mission: General Goodpaster has been advised that our request for permission to conduct at least two missions has been endorsed by the Secretary of Defense and the Acting Secretary of State. I anticipate he will communicate with you, hopefully no later than 18 August, the views of higher authority on this matter. Colonel Burke can furnish you with a map similar to that in General Goodpaster's hands showing proposed targets. Colonel Burke can also brief you as you may desire on our operational plans for these missions including staging

b. CORONA Financing: Under date of 8 August 1958 I sent forward to General Goodpaster a paper setting forth revised estimates of the cost of CORONA. This paper was an outgrowth of a meeting in Dr. Killian's office which I was asked to attend which included Deputy Secretary Quarles, the Director of the Budget, and General Goodpaster. I hope you will in due time receive word from General Goodpaster that the revised estimates (though perhaps regrettably large) have been noted and the approval of the Project stands. Should you have to become involved in discussion of this matter, I suggest that you read the paper I sent to General Goodpaster (which I hope is self-explanatory) and have yourself briefed by Mr. Kiefer if he is in Washington or Colonel Burke. They will be able to show you any supporting documentation you may wish to examine.

NRO review(s) completed.

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c. Proposed Briefing

At the moment, responsibility for action on this matter is in the hands of Hugh Cumming. He has said that he hopes to be able to reach the Secretary of State as soon as the latter returns from New York and he anticipates little difficulty in securing approval for [redacted] along the lines outlined in my paper which you and the Director have already seen. If nothing is heard from Mr. Cumming by Monday, Colonel Burke will call him. I have suggested to Colonel Burke that if no action seems to be forthcoming through this channel by Tuesday, he bring the matter to your attention in the hope that the Director might be willing to intervene. Currently the briefing party holds reservations for a 21 August departure [redacted]

d. Proposed USSR Missions: On the basis of my conversation with you and the Director on 14 August, I have asked Mr. Reber and Colonel Burke to take preliminary steps toward a request for authority to overfly Polyarnyy Urals in the north and Tyura Tam in the south of the USSR. Mr. Reber will seek the support of the Intelligence Community for these proposals through his requirements committee. Thereafter, he and Colonel Burke will discuss with you procedures for obtaining the endorsement of the JCS, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State. I am hopeful that these steps can be completed by about 25 August and that final permission can be sought before the end of this month. Weather and seasonal factors leave only limited time for the northern mission this season.

[redacted]
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

cc: Colonel Burke
Mr. Kiefer
Mr. Reber

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